

AVIATION IN ARMY SAID TO NEED PROBE

Senator Robinson, Before Senate Military Committee, Offers Resolution for Investigating Service.

CHARGES INEFFICIENCY TO LIEUT. COL. REBER

The committee will act Monday on Resolution. Whole Branch of the Army May be Subjected to Probe.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Sensational charges against the Army Aviation Service, with a demand for an immediate investigation by Congress was made today before the Senate Military Committee by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas. He declares the service was "contemptibly inefficient", and that Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Reber was not only not making an effort to improve it, but was deliberately preventing facts reaching his superiors. The committee will act Monday on Robinson's resolution.

Robinson charged that Reber prompted Captain Cowan to practice "contemptible deceit" toward congressmen visiting his aviation station and had attempted to get into the annual appropriation bill, in connection with the item to purchase airplanes, the provision to purchase accessories with which they could build automobiles.

He said the colonel wrote the word "accessories" he like charity and cover a multitude. Some of the congressmen suggested an investigation committee visit San Diego.

MASSACRED BEFORE EXECUTION

LONDON, Feb. 18.—While the details of the capture of Erzurum lacking, semi-official confirmation, Petrograd says most of the Turks escaped. Thousands of Armenians are said to have been massacred before the evacuation. Here was artillery activity near the positions recently taken by the Germans from the British near Ypres. Berlin says the British attempts were repulsed with heavy losses. The Austrians and Italians are engaged in artillery duels with small infantry attacks, but no notable gains are noted. In Albania, the Austro-Hungarians and Albanians, occupy Kavaya, eight miles southwest of Durazzo. The Teutons have the town nearly surrounded. Esad Pasha was deprived of his rank and removed from the Turkish army as a foe for assuming the leadership of provisional Albania and joining the ranks of the Entente.

BIRTH RATE DECLINES.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—The declining birth rate in Germany, attracting attention before the war, is receiving serious attention at present in view of the losses on the battle fields. The subject was discussed by the budget committee of the Prussian Diet. A representative of the Ministry predicted that unless there was a radical change Germany would soon be in the same position as France with deaths exceeding births.

The speaker referred to the high rate of infant mortality. He said one of the gravest hindrances to the growth in population was the increase in premature births, caused deliberately. The evil was not confined to the poorer classes. The minister of education said the government had taken the matter under consideration and was conferring with specialists in an effort to remedy the evil.

NICARAGUAN TREATY RATIFIED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Senate, fifty-five to eighteen, ratified the Nicaraguan treaty whereby the United States acquires a ninety-nine year option on the Nicaraguan canal route and a naval base on Fonseca Bay for \$3,000,000.

Included in the resolution was a provision declaring the United States, in acquiring the base did not intend to violate the existing rights of Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador, which protested against the acquisition. During the debate declarations were made that had offered Nicaragua more than the United States for the canal option. It was used as an argument for its ratification.

LIGHTING ENGINEERS HONOR EDISON



John W. Lieb (right) presenting scroll of honorary membership to Lighting Engineers Society to Thomas A. Edison. Mrs. Edison at husband's left.

On the eve of his sixty-ninth birthday, Thomas A. Edison was honored by the Illuminating Engineers Society at a big banquet in New York. "He has done more than any other man to promote the art and science of engineering," were the words used by Charles P. Steinmetz, the president of the society, in referring to Mr. Edison.

MARRIAGE SAID LUXURY FOR THE RICH

In Peru Marriage is Declared to Be a Distinct Luxury for Even the Rich, According to Commission's Report.

PANAMA, Feb. 18.—Marriage is a luxury for the rich in many parts of Latin-America, according to the report of the Commission on the Church in the Field presented today to the Congress on Religious Work in Latin-America, which is in session here.

Peru, in particular, and its sister Republics on the west coast of South America, are mentioned as countries where the rate of illegitimacy is appallingly high and the marriage tied but little regarded by the masses of the people.

"The marriage institution," says the report, "appears to be weaker on the west coast of South America than in any other Christian land, in the Muslim countries or in the societies of India, Japan and China."

The Peruvian statistician Fuentes is quoted as saying in respect to Lima: "A shocking proportion of the people avoid marriage and live in a complete libertinage, which increases as one descends in the social scale."

One missionary reported to the Commission that in Peru "marriage is considered a luxury for the rich. Even civil marriage is costly. The poor regard each as unobtainable."

An American long resident in Bolivia reports that marriage is very rare among the lower classes of the population and that social standards are nonexistent. He also says that in Colombia and Ecuador the high cost of church marriage, eight dollars being the minimum fee, has added greatly to the prevalence of immorality. Most of the people earn but a few cents a day and eight dollars is a sum far beyond their reach.

The Commission draws a gloomy picture of moral conditions in general in Latin-America. "There is little popular support," it says, "in dealing with normal issues and reforms. Everything is excused on the plea of temperament, precedent, or custom. The masses know nothing of an inflexible and independent moral standard."

In concluding its review the Commission urges the missionary churches to greater efforts in the Latin-American field in view of its enormous extent and the crying need of sustained effort to reach the great masses of the people who are still but little removed from barbarism.

RIOT SCENE IN OKLAHOMA HOUSE

Solons in Tumult While Voting on Successor to "Grandfather" Law Which Deprives Negroes of Ballot.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 18.—Tumultuous scenes in the House of Representatives while members were voting on a section of the election law to take the place of the "Grandfather" law recently declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court because it disenfranchises the negro population.

Corruption charges led to riot and ink bottles, paper weights, fixtures and missiles were hurled. Arthur S. Geissler, chairman of the state central committee, was knocked senseless by Representative Loris E. Bryant.

President Wilson recently pardoned two Oklahoma election officials convicted in the federal court of enforcing the "grandfather" law and two others are on trial in the federal court at Guthrie. The election bill passed the house 53 to 34. Governor Williams is expected to approve it. The registration bill also passed.

SMUGGLING PLOT EXPOSED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Another alleged plot to smuggle rubber from the United States to Germany was revealed when federal indictments were returned against Heinrich Bachmann and Mrs. Elsie Schroeder. It is alleged they purchased a quantity of crude rubber and dozens of pairs of rubber gloves. The rubber was concealed in the trunks of Mrs. Schroeder who booked passage for Christiana on the Oscar II, which sailed last Thursday. Customs officials refused to permit either to sail. The federal authorities say neither is connected with the German government.

MARINE BILL PROPOSED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Chairman Alexander, of the House Merchant Marine committee and in charge of the administration shipping bill, announced he will propose an amendment under which the money from the sales, chased by the government with a fifty million fund to be turned back into the fund.

JURORS ACCEPTED.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Six prospective jurors to try William Lorrimer, president of the defunct La Salle St. Bank, on charges of conspiracy, and receiving deposits after being insolvent, tentatively accepted as a result of two day's examination.

MAGONS ARE AGAIN IN TROUBLE

Ricardo and Enrique Magon, Publishers of El Regeneracion at Los Angeles Arrested by U. S. Officers.

INDICTMENTS BASED ON MANY EDITORIALS

History of the Two Brothers' Activity Along the Border is Interesting. Both Are Well Known in Sonora.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 18.—Enrique Flores Magon and Ricardo Flores Magon, brothers and editors of El Regeneracion, a Mexican revolutionary publication, published here, were arrested on the charge of using the mails to incite murder and revolution, after a battle with Deputy Marshals and a city detective at their plant. The indictments were based on editorials of the last six months. The indictment of William C. Owen, the English editor, was not served.

Printers, both men and women, attacked the officers and held them at bay for some time with revolvers.

One count in the indictment is based on "Wilson is in connivance with Carranza because the old sharper promised Wilson he would favor American capitalists in Mexico. Carranza promised to deliver the Mexicans, tied hand and foot, to the rapacious American plutocracy."

The brothers were convicted here in the United States district court in July 1912, of violation of the neutrality laws and fomenting a revolution in Lower California. They were sentenced to twenty-three months at McNeil's Island. They are said to have served in the Arizona penitentiary at Florence.

The Magons were jailed, it being too late to secure the bonds for \$3,000 each, fixed by Judge Trippet.

The third count is based on the paper's advocacy of attacks on the de facto government. "Honor points the way. Rebel until we attain the triumph of the principles of the declaration of September 23, 1911, the principle which advocates death to capital, authority and all the clergy."

PLANS FOR CONGRESS

EL PASO, Feb. 18.—Plans for convening the national Mexican Congress and holding the elections are under way according to Moises Saez, director general of public institutions in the state of Guanajuato, who arrived at Juarez. He said the election arrangements were being formulated by a special commission. They are expected to result in the selection of candidates almost unanimously pledged to support the Constitutionalist policies.

Saez said sleeping car service from Mexico City to New Orleans would be resumed Sunday. Mexican officials received word Oregon had gone to be married.

MEXICAN HIDES RELEASED AT EL PASO

Protesting Mexican and American Claimants Withdraw Action; Cattlemen May File Claims Against U. S.

EL PASO, Feb. 18.—Two carloads of hides sold by Mexican officials for export and held by the United States customs were released. American and foreign cattlemen claiming the hides bore their brands, whose protests delayed the shipment, announced they had abandoned their plan to institute injunction, in view of the ruling of the court at Austin that controlling factions in Mexico rightfully could confiscate and sell property.

Representatives of the cattlemen declare that claims valued at \$10,000 for the hides will be filed in United States courts. Government officials say information from private sources discloses large quantities of concentrates and bullion, confiscated by Villa, and now in Carranza warehouses, will soon be offered for export. Five tons were reported stored at Juarez.

PROTECTED BY ANTI-GAS MASK. SOLDIER THROWS HAND GRENADES FROM TRENCHES



Every day the cable dispatches tell of hand grenade fighting on all fronts. These small bombs when they explode do frightful havoc. An Austrian soldier is seen here throwing one of these grenades from his trench, protected against gas attack.

HIGH SCHOOL BOY DOMINATES STRIKE

Youth who Speaks Seven Languages the Controlling Factor in Walk Out at Mills of American Brass Company.

ANSONIA, Feb. 18.—Joseph Grohol, just out of high school, and speaking seven languages holds the balance of power in the strike situation here. Over 400,000 are idle as a result of the strike at the American Brass Mills. Grohol controlled all the nationalities as chairman of the committee to officially present the plans of settlement to the company tomorrow. He is not an employee, but addressed the meeting, urging peace and order.

An unidentified man, believed to be an organizer of the Industrial Workers of the World, attempted to interrupt Grohol. Grohol threw him off the platform and continued his address in various languages.

GUARD DISMISSED

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 18.—Troop A, Connecticut Guard, was mobilized late today for possible call to the Ansonia strike, but was dismissed on orders of Adjutant General Cole. The sheriff in conference with the general, said he received instructions to use all means to preserve order before calling the militia.

SISAL COMBINE CAUSES HOT DEBATE

International Harvester Co. is Accused of Financing Revolution Against Carranza; McCormick in Flat Denial.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Charges and counter charges were heard by the Senate Committee on agriculture investigating an American selling agency combine with a Yucatan sisal growers' combine. Representatives of the combine and bankers insisted it was necessary to organize to get fair prices from the International Harvester Company. Spokesmen for the Harvester and other sisal buyers asserted a combine is holding sisal in New York for arbitrary high prices, putting the examination, Levy Mayer, counsel for the bankers, declared the Harvester Co. had furnished funds to be used by revolutionists against Carranza. This was denied.

In an interview in Chicago, McCormick, president of the Harvester, said the statement reported in this afternoon's dispatches that the Harvester Co. had furnished money for the Yucatan revolution was utterly untrue.

INTENTION OF GERMANY IS DENOUNCED IN SENATE

Republican Senators Scathingly Denounce Announced Intention of Germany to Destroy Commerce.

SENATOR LODGE MAKES REVIEW OF THE LAW

Massachusetts Man Asserts it Would be Unneutral for U. S. to Acquiesce in Plan of Von Tirpitz.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Republican senators scathingly denounced in the Senate, Germany's announced intention of destroying unwarned, armed merchantmen of her enemies. It was declared that acquiescence by the United States to such practice would be humiliating and a step toward war.

Senator Lodge, ranking minority member of the Foreign Relations Committee started the discussion, delivering a prepared address, reviewing the international law relating to the arming of merchantmen for defense. He declared it inconceivable that the United States at this time would abandon the principle for which it always stood.

Lodge insisted that acquiescence would be an unneutral act and virtually would make the United States an ally of the nation whose commerce had been swept from the seas.

Senator Sterling assailed Germany. He charged the American government, in its recent memorandum to the Allies, suggesting the dismantling of merchantmen, had put forward a dangerous principle and had encouraged, if not invited, the action of Germany.

Senator Thomas read into the record news dispatches announcing the State Department regarded Germany's notice as inconsistent with her previous assurances, regarding the conduct of submarine warfare, and would accept nothing in the pending controversy with the Teutons short of a full complete agreement with the high principles for which the American government has contended.

Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations, gave notice he would discuss the submarine subject next week and would take occasion to criticize the recent speech of Root on the Administration's foreign policy.

MAY BE SURPRISED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Germany's response to the United States with assurances that the submarine warfare will be conducted along the established principles of international law is expected here to be a flat statement of assurances, given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases and only to unwarned vessels. Germany will feel certain that submarines must know when to warn merchant ships before being attacked. She will probably ask the United States for a definition of defensive armament. There may be a postponement of the date of the proposed German attack on all armed merchantmen.

The United States' formal declaration does not accept as legal the announced intention of the Teutonic powers, by sending its diplomatic and consular representatives notification of what the government considers a merchant ship's right to carry defensive armament. The writing of a formal note, after Germany's complete declaration is under consideration. Austria is also likely to be surprised at the views of the United States.

HEAR APPLICATION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—If the government orders the New Haven Railroad to get rid of its steamship lines the railroad will probably provide adequate rail service so the important water lines cannot compete, is the opinion of Vice President Gardner of the New England Steamship commission, a New Haven subsidiary, and a witness at the hearing of the Interstate Commerce Commission's Clearance on the New Haven's application to retain the steamship lines under the Panama Canal act. The chambers of commerce of the cities along the line New York merchants and the wholesale shoe league favor the application.